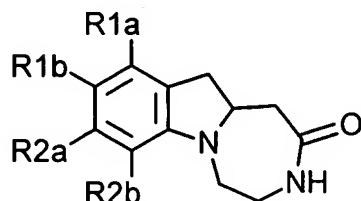


**AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS**

Claims 1-18 (cancelled).

19(currently amended). A compound of the following formula:



where R1a, R1b, R2a and R2b are each independently H, Cl, Br, I, F, CN, CF<sub>3</sub>, OCF<sub>3</sub>, C<sub>1</sub>-C<sub>4</sub> alkyl, OR<sub>5</sub>, CONR<sub>5</sub>R<sub>6</sub>, COR<sub>5</sub>, CO<sub>2</sub>R<sub>5</sub>, Y(CH<sub>2</sub>)<sub>m</sub>XR<sub>5</sub> or YC(O)(CH<sub>2</sub>)<sub>m</sub>XR<sub>5</sub>, where m = 0-3, Y = CH<sub>2</sub>, S, O, or NR<sub>6</sub>, X = CH<sub>2</sub>, S, O, or NR<sub>6</sub>; and

~~\_\_\_\_\_ R<sub>5</sub> and R<sub>6</sub> are each independently H, linear, branched or cyclic C<sub>4</sub>-C<sub>8</sub> alkyl, alkenyl, or alkynyl groups or (CH<sub>2</sub>)<sub>p</sub>Ar where p = 0-3 and Ar is aryl or heteroaryl, Ar being optionally substituted with one or more of the following: H, halogen, CN, NO<sub>2</sub>, OR<sub>7</sub>, CF<sub>3</sub>, OCF<sub>3</sub>, SR<sub>7</sub>, SO<sub>2</sub>R<sub>7</sub>, NR<sub>7</sub>R<sub>8</sub>, CONR<sub>7</sub>R<sub>8</sub>, COR<sub>7</sub>, or R<sub>7</sub> where R<sub>7</sub> and R<sub>8</sub> are each independently H, linear, branched or cyclic C<sub>4</sub>-C<sub>8</sub> alkyl, alkenyl, or alkynyl groups, or (CH<sub>2</sub>)<sub>p</sub>Ph where p = 0-3.~~

R<sub>5</sub> and R<sub>6</sub> are each independently

\_\_\_\_\_ (a) H, linear or branched C<sub>1</sub>-C<sub>8</sub> alkyl, linear or branched C<sub>2</sub>-C<sub>8</sub> alkenyl, linear or branched C<sub>2</sub>-C<sub>8</sub> alkynyl, C<sub>3</sub>-C<sub>8</sub> cycloalkyl, or C<sub>3</sub>-C<sub>8</sub> cycloalkenyl; or

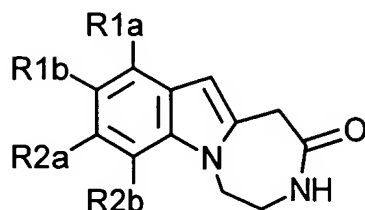
\_\_\_\_\_ (b) (CH<sub>2</sub>)<sub>p</sub>Ar where p = 0-3 and Ar is aryl or heteroaryl, Ar being optionally substituted with one or more of the following: H, halogen, CN, NO<sub>2</sub>, OR<sub>7</sub>, CF<sub>3</sub>, OCF<sub>3</sub>, SR<sub>7</sub>, SO<sub>2</sub>R<sub>7</sub>, NR<sub>7</sub>R<sub>8</sub>, CONR<sub>7</sub>R<sub>8</sub>, COR<sub>7</sub>, or R<sub>7</sub>;

where R<sub>7</sub> and R<sub>8</sub> are each independently

\_\_\_\_\_ (a) H, linear, branched or cyclic C<sub>1</sub>-C<sub>8</sub> alkyl, linear or branched C<sub>2</sub>-C<sub>8</sub> alkenyl, linear or branched alkynyl, C<sub>3</sub>-C<sub>8</sub> cycloalkyl, or C<sub>3</sub>-C<sub>8</sub> cycloalkenyl; or

\_\_\_\_\_ (b) (CH<sub>2</sub>)<sub>p</sub>Ar where Ar is phenyl and p = 0-3.

20(currently amended). A compound of the following formula:



where R1a, R1b, R2a and R2b are each independently H, Cl, Br, I, F, CN, CF<sub>3</sub>, OCF<sub>3</sub>, C<sub>1</sub>-C<sub>4</sub> alkyl, OR<sub>5</sub>, CONR<sub>5</sub>R<sub>6</sub>, COR<sub>5</sub>, CO<sub>2</sub>R<sub>5</sub>, Y(CH<sub>2</sub>)<sub>m</sub>XR<sub>5</sub> or YC(O)(CH<sub>2</sub>)<sub>m</sub>XR<sub>5</sub>, where m = 0-3, Y = CH<sub>2</sub>, S, O, or NR<sub>6</sub>, X = CH<sub>2</sub>, S, O, or NR<sub>6</sub>, with the proviso that R1a, R1b, R2a and R2b are not all H; and

~~\_\_\_\_\_ R<sub>5</sub> and R<sub>6</sub> are each independently H, linear, branched or cyclic C<sub>4</sub>-C<sub>8</sub> alkyl, alkenyl, or alkynyl groups or (CH<sub>2</sub>)<sub>p</sub>Ar where p = 0-3 and Ar is aryl or heteroaryl, Ar being optionally substituted with one or more of the following: H, halogen, CN, NO<sub>2</sub>, OR<sub>7</sub>, CF<sub>3</sub>, OCF<sub>3</sub>, SR<sub>7</sub>, SO<sub>2</sub>R<sub>7</sub>, NR<sub>7</sub>R<sub>8</sub>, CONR<sub>7</sub>R<sub>8</sub>, COR<sub>7</sub>, or R<sub>7</sub> where R<sub>7</sub> and R<sub>8</sub> are each independently H, linear, branched or cyclic C<sub>4</sub>-C<sub>8</sub> alkyl, alkenyl, or alkynyl groups, or (CH<sub>2</sub>)<sub>p</sub>Ph where p = 0-3.~~

R<sub>5</sub> and R<sub>6</sub> are each independently

(a) H, linear or branched C<sub>1</sub>-C<sub>8</sub> alkyl, linear or branched C<sub>2</sub>-C<sub>8</sub> alkenyl, linear or branched C<sub>2</sub>-C<sub>8</sub> alkynyl, C<sub>3</sub>-C<sub>8</sub> cycloalkyl, or C<sub>3</sub>-C<sub>8</sub> cycloalkenyl; or

(b) (CH<sub>2</sub>)<sub>p</sub>Ar where p = 0-3 and Ar is aryl or heteroaryl, Ar being optionally substituted with one or more of the following: H, halogen, CN, NO<sub>2</sub>, OR<sub>7</sub>, CF<sub>3</sub>, OCF<sub>3</sub>, SR<sub>7</sub>, SO<sub>2</sub>R<sub>7</sub>, NR<sub>7</sub>R<sub>8</sub>, CONR<sub>7</sub>R<sub>8</sub>, COR<sub>7</sub>, or R<sub>7</sub>;

where R<sub>7</sub> and R<sub>8</sub> are each independently

(a) H, linear, branched or cyclic C<sub>1</sub>-C<sub>8</sub> alkyl, linear or branched C<sub>2</sub>-C<sub>8</sub> alkenyl, linear or branched alkynyl, C<sub>3</sub>-C<sub>8</sub> cycloalkyl, or C<sub>3</sub>-C<sub>8</sub> cycloalkenyl; or

(b) (CH<sub>2</sub>)<sub>p</sub>Ar where Ar is phenyl and p = 0-3.

Claims 21-27 (cancelled).